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Bay County Executive



BAY COUNTY
Health Department
Creating A Healthy Environment For The Community

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*** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ***

TO: Public News Media Sources

FROM: Joel Strasz
Public Health Services Manager

DATE: **October 27, 2009**

RE: **Schedule for First H1N1 Vaccination Clinics Available**

H1N1 FluMist® nasal spray vaccine will be available beginning October 30 and 31st at Bay County Health Department Vaccine Clinics

The Bay County Health Department today released the schedule for the first round of vaccine clinics, which will provide the H1N1 vaccine to Bay County residents who are in a priority group.

Bay County will hold an H1N1 influenza vaccination clinic Friday, October 30, 2009, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., at the Health Department's main location of 1200 Washington Avenue in Bay City. A second clinic will be held at the Bay County Community Center on Saturday, October, 31, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00p.m. The Bay County Community Center is located at 800 John F. Kennedy Drive in Bay City. No appointment is necessary and there is no cost for the H1N1 vaccine, but residents are asked to bring identification and proof of insurance as some administrative charges may apply. All minors must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

Only Nasal FluMist vaccines (nasal spray) will be distributed at the clinics. The Nasal FluMist vaccine is composed of a weakened live virus and is only recommended for healthy people between the ages of 2 and 49 years of age. The FluMist vaccine is not recommended for pregnant women, anyone with a long-term health problem or children with asthma.

Bay County is prioritizing H1N1 Nasal FluMist vaccinations for individuals in the groups recommended to receive it, as follows:

- Healthy persons ages 2 to 24
- Household contacts and caregivers for children younger than six months
- Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel that will be in contact with high-risk groups

"Increasing amounts of H1N1 vaccine are expected to arrive in Bay County on a weekly basis. The Bay County Health Department will be providing vaccine clinics to Bay County residents in the H1N1 vaccine priority groups," said Barbara MacGregor, Director and Health Officer.

As the vaccine becomes more and more available, a list of dates and locations can be found on the Bay County Health Department website at www.baycounty-mi.gov/health or by calling the Health Information line at 895-4192. Residents are urged to check back often as these dates and times may change based on the availability of vaccine.

Influenza, more commonly known as the flu, causes approximately 36,000 deaths and more than 200,000 hospitalizations each year in the United States. While the average case of H1N1 is no worse than other types of seasonal flu, some individuals are at a higher risk for serious complications.

cc: T. L. Hickner, Bay County Executive
B. MacGregor, Health Officer
File(s)